

Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 1 - Northern
601 Locust Street
Redding, California 96001



Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Portuguese Creek Horizontal Directional Drilling Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, EPIMS-SIS-34286-R11)

Project Location (include county): The project is located at Portuguese Creek, near the confluence with Klamath River, in Siskiyou County, California; Latitude 41.85901, Longitude -123.24593; on State of California, Department of Transportation land along State Highway 96 near Seiad Valley, CA 96086; Assessor's Parcel Number 008-160-310.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, EPIMS-SIS-34286-R11, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Siskiyou Telephone Company, as represented by Carl Francis Eastlick.

The project is limited to the horizontal direction drilling (HDD) of a bore path under Portuguese Creek, through which underground fiber optic cables will be routed for a Department of Transportation bridge project. An AT40 Ditchwitch directional drill machine will be used to bore the underground path. Neither the bell holes nor staging for the project will impact riparian vegetation.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

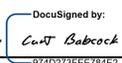
Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Siskiyou Telephone Company

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – **Class 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304**, Minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes.

Reasons why project is exempt: The project will alter a negligible area of land outside of any existing riparian vegetation.

CDFW Contact Person: Helen Bowman (Environmental Scientist), R1LSARedding@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 12/15/2022

Curt Babcock, Inland Habitat Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____